



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans District 8 Receives Excellence in Transportation Award

Riverside/San Bernardino – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 8 is proud to announce that we have been awarded the “Transportation Innovation” category for the prestigious Excellence in Transportation competition. The competition, which is conducted by Caltrans, is in its 24th year and the awards honor the best transportation projects across the state. The criteria includes: Innovative engineering, design or construction, functional efficiency, safety, maintenance and operational factors, compatibility with or enhancement of the environment, preservation/conservation of natural resources, visual appeal or impact, quality of user experience, and cost benefit ratio.

District 8 has been recognized for the “Wireless Vehicle Detection System” project which started in early 2009. The project installed “in-lane” wireless magnetometers and solar powered radar detection units positioned adjacent to Inland Empire (IE) freeways that will collect traffic data from a total of 204 locations on Interstates 10, 15 and 215 and State Route 91.

The new detectors use pavement-mounted magnetic sensors to detect the presence and movement of vehicles. The magneto-resistive sensors in the pavement are wireless, transmitting their data in real-time via low-power radio technology to the nearby computer detection unit that then relays the data to the Caltrans Transportation Management Center. Speed, volume and truck classification data will be collected from these detection devices, and will be used to produce real-time travel information. The sensors will not only alert Caltrans about the adverse effects of a traffic accident on a particular freeway, but also how adjacent freeways are being impacted. Engineers will be able to determine the best locations for future projects by analyzing stored data. The devices utilize more advanced technology than the conventional loop detectors currently used and both systems are less expensive to install than conventional loop detectors. These units will not be used for law enforcement.

District Director, Dr. Raymond W. Wolfe said, “This new system analyzes traffic data faster and enables Caltrans to ultimately provide faster traffic alerts for the public.” The \$5 million dollar project was funded by Measure A Transportation Funds and State Bond Initiative 1B.

There were nearly 100 entries from across the state for the Excellence in Transportation awards, which were reviewed by a panel of judges that included professional engineers, environmental specialists, and transportation planners. Entries were received from local and public agencies, private contractors and consultants, and Caltrans.

Caltrans is proud to showcase its work and the work of its partners in this annual awards program, which recognizes the best of the best. Caltrans congratulates its local winners who worked hard to help build and maintain a transportation system that meets public’s mobility needs, enhances the safety for travelers, and supports the California economy.

California has obligated \$2.52 billion in Recovery Act funding obligated to 930 highway, local streets, and job training transportation projects statewide. For more information on the Recovery Act visit:

<http://recovery.ca.gov>.

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